Then with regard to the enhancement of the Government grant to your municipality, I may say that your municipality has been working so well and successfully that I do not think that you stand in need of any help from Government.

65. Needs of the Kalkulam taluk.

MR. KANAKKU TAMPI CHEMPAKARAMAN KESAVAN (*Kalkulam taluk, Group I*) first spoke about the desirability of raising the storage level of the Kodayar Reservoir by three feet. The newly converted lands in Nanjinad were not getting an adequate supply of water. There were also other dry lands which were fit for conversion, but which were not actually converted. The chief reasons for the inadequacy of water for the converted and the non-conversion of the lands which could be converted were (1) insufficiency of water in the Kodayar reservoir, and (2) the narrowness of the Kodayar channels. The first defect could be removed by raising the level of the Kodayar *marukal* by 3 feet. The suggestion had been made by the conference held in February 1913 as a result of a representation made at the 9th session of the Assembly. The Government also accepted the proposal and ordered the preparation of a plan and estimate for the work (*Vide* G. O. No. 540/L. R. & F. dated the 13th January 1913). It was not known what further action was taken in the matter. No harm would be done to the dam by the work since even now a temporary bund 5 ft. in height was being put up every year with a view to increase the storage capacity of the lake. The narrowness of the channels was eventually brought about by the under-estimate of the lands to be benefited at the time of construction of the dam. The under-estimate was also the main reason why the proposed Tuckalai branch channel was given up. In actual working it was found that there would not be sufficient water to feed the channel and benefit the adjoining lands. The sale of tank-beds and the consequent increase in the quantity of Kodayar water required for *ayacut* wet lands, the leakage in irrigation channels and the non-restoration of the feeder channels were also other contributory causes for the insufficiency of water supply to the converted lands. The first request of the member was therefore to raise the level of the Kodayar *marukal* by 3 feet, to increase the width of the channels and stop leakages in them and restore the irrigation tanks. The sale of tank-beds should be stopped. The member also referred to the immediate need for closing the breaches of the Nullikulam *marukul* in the Tuckala *pakuthi*. He further requested that his representation might be referred to the Minor Irrigation Committee for enquiry and report.

The next request was for the preservation of the tree-growth in the Kodayar catchment area. Indiscriminate felling of trees by the Forest Department and the clearing of undergrowth should be prevented as they would affect the water supply in the Kodayar reservoir. Felling of trees might make the surrounding soil loose and the rain water might wash it down to the reservoir thereby silting it up.

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Speaking about means of communication in the Kalkulam taluk, the member urged the need for improving the Perunchilampu road in the Kothanallur *pakuthi* and the construction of a bridge across the Tatcharakottu river. The road was very much used by the local ryots for the transport of their agricultural produce. The ryots' road connecting the Padmanabhapuram-Tiruvattar road with the Tuckala-Kulasekharam road at the 2nd mile also needed urgent repair. It should be taken up by the Public Works Department and maintained as a Government road. The people had agreed to give the lands required for the road free of compensation, although one or two subsequently backed out of their promise. The lands should be acquired as originally agreed to by the parties and the road repaired and the necessary culverts constructed.

For the use of the whole of the Kalkulam taluk having an area of 230 square miles and a population of 170,000, there were only three hospitals, *viz.*, those at Tuckalai, Kulasekharam and Colachel. There was not a lady doctor in any of those institutions and the women of the taluk were put to much hardship for want of proper medical aid. The Tuckalai hospital, the most important of the three institutions, had a chief medical officer and two men Sub-Assistant Surgeons. One of the latter might be replaced by a lady Sub-Assistant Surgeon. There would be no additional cost to the Government thereby.

Lastly, the member advocated the desirability of making Muthukuzhivayal a sanatorium and health resort and affording facilities to the people for easy access and constructing at least a *satram* there.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Kesavan Tampi, I am glad to observe that your representation shows that you have carefully considered the question of the Kodayar reservoir. As you said, there may have been some mistakes made in the calculation of the possible supply of water that can be brought from the Kodayar. And one fact which was responsible for this miscalculation might be that the average rainfall was not properly ascertained. In 1102 and 1103—it must be within the knowledge of everybody—in the dry season there was very little water in the reservoir. It is therefore doubtful whether, by raising the level of the dam, any useful purpose would be served. Water is needed in the dry season when you cannot expect water from any other place. It is no use raising the level of the reservoir and storing the water there in other seasons when the need for water is not absolutely felt. If, at the time when water is needed, the reservoir is not able to hold the available quantity, it is necessary that the level should be raised. But that is not the case. It will not be quite safe to draw general conclusions from the experience of one or two years. So it seems to me that we shall wait and see whether the level of the reservoir can be usefully raised or not. The Chief Engineer is, in the meantime, investigating the problem of preventing leakages in the channels.

Your second and third points relating to roads will be referred to the Road Board.

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You have urged the appointment of a lady Sub-Assistant Surgeon in the hospital at Tuckalai. All that I can say is that Government are not unaware of the need for appointing lady doctors in many hospitals and they have under consideration a scheme for appointing them in the chief hospitals. When that scheme is finally passed, the supply of lady doctors will be taken up and carried out gradually. It can be done only in course of time.

Then with regard to making Muthukuzhivayal a sanatorium, it is for the people to make a move in that direction, and I may tell you that, if a few enterprising and public-spirited people like you, who have some knowledge and personal experience of the place, put up some houses there, before long it will be converted into a health resort.

The question of a road to that place will be considered then.

66. Needs of the Kalkulam taluk.

MR. SUBRAHMANYA PILLAI MATEVAN PILLAI (*Kalkulam taluk, Group II*) urged the need for transferring one of the three Munsiffs' Courts at Padmanabhapuram to Eraniel. Owing to the absence of a Munsiff's Court at Eraniel, the inhabitants of Midalam, Kizhmidalam and other places had to walk a distance of about 15 miles to go to Padmanabhapuram to conduct their cases. The merchants of Eraniel were also put to much inconvenience because of the dislocation of business on the days on which they had to attend courts. A large number of cases was also being filed from Eraniel. There was therefore every justification to transfer one of the Munsiffs' Courts to Eraniel.

The member also suggested the desirability of removing the Additional Munsiff's Court from the rented building to the Magistrate's Court building.

Next he requested that the proposal to extend the jurisdiction of the Village Panchayat and Bench Magistrate's Courts at Padmanabhapuram to Tiruvitankod and Eraniel should not be approved. Even as it was, the traders of Eraniel were put to great inconvenience in having to attend the Munsiff's court at Tuckalai and, if they had to attend to the Panchayat Court there, which was situated at a longer distance from Eraniel than the Munsiff's Court, it would be a hardship.

The two blocks of buildings of the English High School at Eraniel were situated very near the public road which was always crowded and busy, especially on market days. The incessant noise and dust were a source of nuisance to the teachers and the pupils. The construction of compound walls on the northern and eastern sides of the school would mitigate the evil to a great extent. He therefore requested that the work might be sanctioned at an early date.

The absence of ceiling for the rooms in the school was another source of inconvenience to the pupils and teachers as the radiated heat during the hot season was unbearable. While the Education Code insisted upon ceiling being provided for private schools, it was a pity that Government buildings were not provided with it.

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